

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for the continuous production of crosslinked fine particles of an addition polymer gel, comprising

copolymerizing a monomer mixture, comprising

- a) one or more water-soluble monoethylenically unsaturated monomers,
- b) from 0.001 to 5 mol% based on the monomers (a) of one or more comonomers containing at least two ethylenically unsaturated groups, and
- c) from 0 to 20 mol% based on the monomers (a) of one or more water-insoluble monoethylenically unsaturated monomers,

wherein the monomers a), b) and c) are present as a 20 to 80% by weight solution in water based on the total amount of a), b), and c), wherein the copolymerizing is carried out in the presence of initiator at from 0 to 140°C by continuously feeding the aqueous solution of the monomers into a mixing kneader having at least two axially parallel rotating shafts having a plurality of kneading and transporting elements to convey the monomer mixture ~~in piston flow~~ from an upstream end of the mixing kneader in the axial direction toward a downstream end of the mixing kneader by the continuous conveying action of the transporting elements of the rotating shafts in the presence of one or more addition polymerization inhibitors under an inert gas.

Claim 11 (Original): The process of claim 10, wherein the monomer solution is conveyed through the mixing kneader with an inert gas.